

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully requested.

Claim 23 was indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of base claim 15. Claim 23 has been rewritten to include the substantive limitations of claim 15, although omitting the drive keys limitation, and thus is believed to be allowable.

The remaining claims were indicated as being allowable.

Submitted herewith for the examiner's consideration is an English translation of German publication 2039003 which was previously listed in applicant's information disclosures statement and considered by the examiner on May 20, 2003. This reference was brought to the attention of the undersigned attorney by a third party attorney not involved directly with the present application and believed to represent a competitor brake manufacturer. There is reference in the last paragraph preceding the claims to "other types" of springs that can be employed, although there appear to be no drawings supporting the reference to other types of springs. In any case, from what is available in the disclosure, the reference appears to be no more relevant than that of Strain et al and Bunker '510 which was already considered by the examiner and thus this German reference does not appear to be any more relevant to the consideration of patentability than those references cited by the examiner. In regard to this last paragraph, there is reference to each ring disc having its own spring that slides in order to permit axial motion at the collar. There are no drawings showing each disc fitted with a spring. There are no drawings or disclosure as to how each spring is associated with its ring disc. While one skilled in the art is left to speculate, one thing is clear: there is no teaching or suggestion to provide a plurality of resilient devices attached at circumferentially spaced

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locations to at least one brake disc and movable axially with the brake disc, as called for by claim 23. As such, this reference is believed to be no more relevant than that of Strain, and perhaps less relevant in that it provides only a single spring for each ring disc.

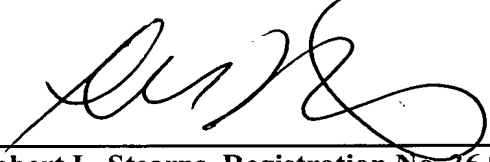
It is believed that this application now is in condition for allowance. Further and favorable action is requested.

The Patent Office is authorized to charge or refund any fee deficiency or excess to Deposit Account No. 08-2789.

Respectfully submitted,

HOWARD & HOWARD ATTORNEYS, P.C.

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Date



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